

Notes and Data Sources

Indicator 1: Real Wages Per Worker

Data for figures 1.1 and 1.2 taken from the *Quarterly Census on Employment and Wages Report (2002 and 2006)* as provided by the Washington State Employment Security Department, available at <http://www.workforceexplorer.com/>. Washington State ESD defines *wages* as payment for labor or services performed. For figure 1.2, wages in real dollars are based on 1990 base year CPI for Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA area (not seasonally adjusted) as established by U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, available at www.bls.gov. Figure 1.3 data taken from *2006 American Community Survey (ACS)*, available at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>. ACS defines *earnings* as the algebraic sum of wage or salary income and net income from self-employment. Earnings represent the amount of income received regularly before deductions for personal income taxes, Social Security, bond purchases, union dues, Medicare deductions, etc.

Indicator 2: Personal Income and Median Household Income

Figure 2.1 data taken from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), available at <http://www.bea.gov/regional/index.htm>. Prior year reporting for per capita personal income may not match historical series in this bulletin, which was updated to reflect revised estimates provided by BEA as of May, 2008. *Total personal income* is defined as the sum of the amounts reported separately for wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips; self-employment income from own nonfarm or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships; interest, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and any other sources of income received regularly such as Veterans' (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, child support, or alimony. *Personal current transfer receipts* include payments to persons for which no services are performed, including: retirement, disability, medical payments (primarily Medicare and Medicaid), veterans benefits, and Federal grants/ loans to students among others. Data for figures 2.2 and 2.3 taken from the U.S. Census Bureau (*1989 and 1999 Surveys*) and *American Community Survey (2000-2006)*, available at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>. Real income for King County based on CPI as shown above in Indicator 1 notes. National real income based on 1990 base year CPI for U.S. city average (not seasonally adjusted) as established by U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, available at www.bls.gov. Due to interpolation of income categories, the distribution of King County households by income should be considered an estimate. A note on methodology: prior year reporting used the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) *Median Family Income and Income Eligibility Limits by Household Size* figures as a proxy for median household income. Henceforth, median household income figures are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau and *American Community Survey* as discussed above. The median household income data reported in this bulletin is *not* comparable to previous reporting in the Benchmark Reports.

Indicator 3: Percentage of Population in Poverty

Data taken from U.S. Census Bureau (*1989 and 1999 Surveys*) and *American Community Survey (2000-2006)*, available at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>. Poverty rate is estimated for population "for whom poverty status is determined," which may be a smaller universe than the total population of a geography. The *2006 American Community Survey* included Group Quarters in the national poverty rate estimate. The 2006 national poverty rate is slightly higher than expected due to the inclusion of this population. Comparison to 2000-2005 ACS data should be made with caution, as prior years did not include Group Quarters.

Indicator 4: New Businesses Created

Figure 4.1 data taken from *Quarterly Census on Employment and Wages Report (2002 and 2006)* as provided by the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD), available at <http://www.workforceexplorer.com/>. A portion of the business decline recorded in 2003 is due to changes in methodology made by ESD. Due to rounding, jobs by sector may not sum to the annual total. As classified by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) by the US Census Bureau, "other services, except public administration" is dominated by private households, which comprises those households employing workers on the premises in activities primarily engaged in the operation of the household, including individuals such as cooks, maids, nannies, butlers, gardeners, caretakers and other maintenance workers. "Private households" has been removed from the classification for this indicator. "Business-to-business electronic markets" bring together buyers and sellers of goods via the Internet or other electronic means and generally receive a commission for services rendered. Markets for both durable and nondurable goods are included in this industry. This industry does not include business-to-consumer/ consumer-to-consumer trade such as electronic shopping or mail-order houses. "Retail 'storefront' sectors" include: motor vehicle and parts dealers, furniture and home furnishings stores, electronics and appliance stores, building material and garden supply stores, food and beverage stores, health and personal care stores, gasoline stations, clothing and clothing accessories stores, sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores, general merchandise stores and other miscellaneous store retailers. These sectors account for roughly 94% of the firms and jobs in the retail trade industry. For more information about NAICS, see <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>.

Indicator 5: New Jobs by Employment Sector

Figure 5.1 data taken from *Quarterly Census on Employment and Wages Report (2002 and 2006)* as provided by the Washington State Employment Security Department, available at <http://www.workforceexplorer.com/>. Due to rounding, jobs by sector may not sum to the annual total.

Indicator 6: New Jobs in Sectors that Export

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The Location Quotients (LQs) in each year uses the following calculation:

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$$LQ = \left(\frac{\text{industry share of local employment}}{\text{total local employment}} \right) / \left(\frac{\text{industry share of national employment}}{\text{total national employment}} \right)$$

This calculation was performed automatically using the on-line Location Quotient calculator provided by BLS: (http://data.bls.gov/LOCATION_QUOTIENT/servlet/lqc.ControllerServlet). An LQ greater than 1 indicates an industry with a greater share of the local area employment than is the case in the reference area. The analysis uses the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which replaced the Standard Industry Classification (SIC) system in 2002. Industry designations are based on 4-digit NAICS codes, while more general sector designations are based on 2-digit NAICS codes. Washington State export data in figure 6.3 taken from *Value of Washington Exports/ OFM Washington Trends*, provided by Washington State Office of Financial Management, available at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/trends/tables/fig106.asp>.

Indicator 7: Educational Background of Adult Population

Data for figures 7.1 and 7.2 taken from the 2006 American Community Survey, available at <http://www.census.gov/>.

Indicator 8: Twelfth Grade Graduation Rate

Data for figures 8.1 and 8.2 taken from *Graduation and Dropout Statistics For Washington's Counties, Districts, and Schools, School Year 2004-2005 (September 2006)*, provided by Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), available at <http://www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/default.aspx>. Graduation and dropout rates are estimated. As data is reported by individual school districts using different methodologies, comparisons across districts should be done with caution. Students that transferred to another school during the academic year are removed from all calculations to avoid double-counting students.

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King County Benchmark Program

Established by the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) in 1995 as required by the WA State Growth Management Act, the King County Benchmark Program monitors 45 indicators that measure the progress of the King County Countywide Planning Policies. The indicators are intended to collectively articulate the impact of land use and development policies/ practices on our natural, built and social environment. Rather than focusing on the jurisdictional programs of the county's 40 jurisdictions, the Benchmarks provide a high level analytical view of change within the geographic boundaries of King County.

As one of the first and most durable efforts at monitoring outcomes in the public sector, the King County Benchmark Program demonstrates how measurement of broad quality-of-life outcomes can help determine if public policy and programs are making a difference. Public outcome monitoring is a strategy for change: it alerts us to what we are doing well and where we need to do better. It is closely connected to both the policy goals that it monitors, and to the strategic planning, programs, and services that are intended to implement those goals.

The Benchmark Program reports cover five policy areas: land use, economic development, transportation, affordable housing and the environment. All reports are available on the Internet at <http://www.metrokc.gov/budget/benchmrk>. For information, please contact Lisa Voight, Program Manager (206) 296-3464, King County Office of Management and Budget, 701 Fifth Ave, Suite 3200, Seattle, WA 98104, or e-mail: lisa.voight@kingcounty.gov.

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